

theCHITIMACHA NEWSLETTER

Jan. 1998

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As your new Chairman I think some of you may be wondering just what the future holds for our Nation. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few of my thoughts with you. First, let me reassure you that my goal is no different now than it was eleven years ago, when I first went full time with the Tribe. That goal is: "The pursuit of long term security and prosperity for all of our people." This goal is one that I believe is shared by all those who come to work each day and work toward this end. I am confident this will continue.

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On January 24th we held a General Meeting to review the financial status of our organization. Once again it illustrated the true quality of our Tribal Administration and the quality of the people who compose it. As many of you know, going through an annual audit of the books is not easy but certainly the best measure of organizational performance. I am happy to report to you that we have a clean audit yielding no significant findings.

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Another area of discussion was the per capita issue. I gave an update that basically said, "no news from the BIA" regarding the vote to go to 50%. As many of you remember, we voted to request a special election to go to 50%. This requires the approval of the Secretary of Interior, according to our Constitution. I will send word to you just as soon as we get it. I am not expecting any problems with getting this done.

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We also reviewed the progress of the Pavilion at this meeting. I must say this was by far the most impressive of our presentations. For those of you there, you understand. To those who weren't, you missed a grand open house like no other I remember. The presentation consisted of a trip to the new facility where we were greeted by a very proud group of people ready to show us our new pavilion. We were treated to an audio visual experience second to none. We were served a meal fit for royalty and that's just how we were made to feel, like royalty. It was one grand experience.

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The last order of business at our general meeting was to schedule another meeting during the middle of April. The date for this meeting was discussed as the 18th, however, due to conflicts with schedules of presenters, we need to change it to the 25th. Please mark your calendars for the 25th of April at 2:00 p.m. Our discussion topics at this meeting will be the ongoing development of Tribal projects and hopefully per capita issues.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support during our recent transition and I pledge to continue this journey onward and upward with your support. Thank you.

Ted M. Darden

Until next Month!!!

"Kop's Korner"

News from the Chitimacha P.D.

Frank McCloskey, Police Chief

JANUARY 1998

The Lord will never leave us nor forsake us,
He promised He'd be with us through it all.
It often seems He's walking right beside us
As he guides us through our problems, large and small.
But there are times we just can't feel His presence,
When the road's so rough, we need Him all the more
We wonder why we're so alone and helpless,
Why His hand's not there to lead us as before...
But if we listen quietly, He'll tell us,
"Take a moment and remember what I said:
If you fail to see me walking beside you,
It's because I have you in my arms instead,
For together, we will cross the highest mountain,
Together we will face the stormy sea,
You never are alone, you're never helpless!
I'll carry you, let go and lean on me."



He is with you...even in this time of sorrow too deep for words.

Our condolences to the families of Chairman Ralph Darden, Mr. Ovide Butaud Jr., Mrs. Dora Burgess, and Mr. Farrell Sinitiere.

Thanks to everyone in the community who sent an assortment of food and goodies over the holiday season. Everyone at the police department appreciated it very much and wish everyone a Very Happy, Healthy and Safe 1998!

During the month of January 1998, the police department issued one traffic citation for careless driving and logged two arrests on charges of simple theft and reckless operation and no driver's license.

POLICE DEPARTMENT DISPATCHING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

During the month of December 1997, police department communications officers began dispatching emergency calls for the Chitimacha/Charenton and Baldwin Fire Departments.

A separate phone line has been established at the police department if you should need to have the fire departments dispatched for a fire or medical emergency, but you may continue to call 911 or the Chitimacha Police Department phone number.

923-4964 CHITIMACHA POLICE DEPARTMENT

923-4442 FIRE DISPATCH--TO REPORT A FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY

NEW BICYCLES

We would like to remind all children that received bicycles for Christmas, to bring them to the police department to have them registered and photos taken.

Bicycle helmets could reduce head injuries by 85 percent. So make sure you get a helmet with your new bike. You'd be out of your head not to!

WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY!

TRIBAL COURT NEWS

By Holly A. Robicheaux, Tribal Courts Director

CURRENT COURT STATISTICS:

CASES: (19)

9 Civil Actions (6 Garnishments and 3 Personal Injury Torts); 1 Domestic Action (Petition For Change in Custody); 6 Traffic (Civil Infractions); 2 Juvenile (1 Delinquent & 1 Status Offender); 1 Criminal (Class B Misdemeanor)

MORTGAGES AND LIENS: (23)

Assignments

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS: (00)

COURT OF APPEALS: (00)

TOTAL ACTIONS PROCESSED IN DECEMBER (42)

CASES PENDING AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1997:

TRIAL COURT: (30)

12	CIVIL (8 Torts/3Reg. Civil/1 Judg.Debt.)
04	CRIMINAL (3 Class A/ 1 Class B)
02	DOMESTIC RELATIONS
08	JUVENILE
02	TRAFFIC

APPELLATE COURT: (02)

02 CIVIL TORT ACTIONS

COURT SESSIONS:

TRIBAL TRIAL COURT:

DECEMBER'S regular session was conducted on December 2, 1997, at which time 16 matters were scheduled to be heard;

- (03) JUVENILE
(Status Conf. and Special Review Hearings)
- (01) CRIMINAL
(Rule To Show Cause)
- (06) TRAFFIC
(Hearings on CV Infractions)

- (01) CIVIL
(Hear. on Civil Complaint)
- (05) CIVIL TORT ACTIONS
(3 Prelim. Hearings/1 Rule To Show Cause/1 Trial on the Merits)

JANUARY'S regular session was conducted on January 13, 1998, at which time 18 matters were scheduled to be heard;

- (05) JUVENILE
(Initial/Review/Fact-Finding Hearings)
- (04) CRIMINAL
(Arraignments)
- (06) TRAFFIC
(Hearings on CV Infractions)
- (01) CIVIL
(Judgement Debtor Rule)
- (01) DOMESTIC RELATIONS
(Petition For Change in Custody)
- (01) CIVIL TORT ACTIONS
(Prelim. Hearing)

SPECIAL SESSION:

A Special Session was conducted on December 12, 1997 @ 9:00 a.m., at which time 2 Juvenile matters (Initial Hearings) were scheduled to be heard.

NEXT REGULAR SESSION:

Our next regular session is scheduled for February 10, 1998, with open session beginning at 10:00 a.m.

TRIBAL APPELLATE COURT :

On December 9, 1997 oral arguments were conducted at 10:30 a.m., in a CV Tort Action presently on Appeal, and; the Decision on Second Review was rendered in CV APP-95-0007, with same being REFORMED AS TO ALLOCATION OF COSTS; AND, AS REFORMED, AFFIRMED.

As always, if you would like any further information regarding the Tribal Courts, please feel free to contact the Court at 923-7806.



Fire Department News

By Sheryl Sinitiere, Fire Chief

The past two years has seen a tremendous growth for the department. With the receipt of the Community Development Block Grant, we have added a new combination Aerial/Pumper and a new Heavy Duty Rescue to our fleet. We have a new 2,000 gallon tanker on order and it is scheduled to be delivered in July. The size of the fire station has been doubled to add storage space, classrooms and offices. The communications system has been upgraded and the Chitimacha Police Department is efficiently handling our communications duties. The two full-time firefighters have greatly impacted our departments operations by providing manpower for daytime response and maintenance of the equipment and station.

We have consolidated our departments operations with the Baldwin and Four Corners Volunteer Fire Departments. This effort provides additional personnel and equipment responding to fires as well as a positive impact on our future Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) fire insurance rating.

There was a total of 199 calls for aid in 1997 which is a slight increase from one-hundred eighty-seven (187) calls in 1996. There were twenty-two (22) fire calls in 1997, of which only four (4) were structure fires compared to five (5) in 1996. I am pleased to announce that the fire loss for those incidents (both 1996 and 1997) was minor. We responded to one-hundred seventy-seven (177) medical calls in 1997 compared to one-hundred sixty-seven (167) in 1996. In 1997, there were twenty-two (22) auto accidents, fifty-one (51) home medical emergencies and one-hundred four (104) calls to Cypress Bayou Casino. In 1996 there were sixteen (16) auto accidents, fifty-one (51) home

medical emergencies and one-hundred (100) calls to Cypress Bayou Casino. The totals were nearly identical for both years.

During 1997, the members completed a total of eight-hundred nine (809) hours of training. Fifty-ne percent (51%) of the training, or, four-hundred fourteen (414) hours, was dedicated for medical related topics and three-hundred ninety-five (395) hours was for firefighting related topics.

Our goals for next year include the following:

1. Complete the necessary items for the insurance rating evaluation.
2. Increase the number of training programs to include specialized courses in Driver/Operator Certification, advance medical courses, vehicle extrication and a Firefighter I Certification Program.
3. Obtain the tanker and place in service.
4. Develop written operational standards for our department's operations at emergency incidents which will serve as a basis of training.

None of these accomplishment could have been possible without the total support of the Chitimacha Tribal Administration and Council. The members of our organization and I are especially proud of the support that we have received. We look forward to the PIAL rating in October and our eventual rate reduction.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

By: Melanie Marcotte

I am going to take you back in time to a period of 50 years ago. In terms of historical events, this would be considered modern times. But a very important event occurred on May 20, 1947, that would be a promise of hope for the Chitimacha people. A future leader of the Chitimacha was born, Ralph Darden.

To understand the man, we need look at his early years, his family, and his devotion to his people. Let's start by going back in time in his family lineage. By doing so, we will gain an understanding of the pride in his heritage and his people.

Grandparents Virginia Paul
(Chitimacha) married Jules Darden
(Chitimacha) on June 24, 1897.
Virginia's father was Joseph John Paul,
Chitimacha Chief. They had two
children Arthur and Bernadette.
Bernadette died at 5 months of age.

On December 25, 1901, Ralph's
grandmother Virginia Paul Darden, was
murdered in the front yard of Benjamin
Paul's home. At the time Virginia was
8 months pregnant with her third child.
His grandfather, Jules Darden, was
severely injured.

On February 22, 1908, Jules Darden was
severely injured by sustaining thirteen
stab wounds and a crushed skull. He
died on that day.

Arthur Darden (Ralph's father) was
raised by Benjamin Paul, Chitimacha
Chief, and his wife Christine Paul.

Arthur Darden married Martha "Coo"
Broussard on February 14, 1936. They
had two sons, Harold Darden and Ralph
Darden. Ralph was born on May 20,
1947.

Growing up, times were hard for all families here on the reservation. Ralph's father was once a fisherman, fishing with Ben Darden to support his family. He continued to do this until he became the bridge-keeper in Adeline, eventually retiring from this occupation. His mother helped to support the family by sitting with the sick and elderly. The small, wooden home that Ralph grew up in is now gone, having been moved across the bayou and restored.

Like most Chitimacha children, Ralph attended Chitimacha School, graduating from the seventh grade. He then went to Hanson High School for a few years, then transferred to Franklin Senior High School, where he graduated. I spoke with some of the elders here in the community, as well as friends of Ralph's, and got a picture of a boy who found pleasure in everyday occurrences, like riding Uncle Vince's calves, or swimming in the bayou with his friends.

Working as a mechanic, Ralph helped many people in the Chitimacha community, as well as in the surrounding towns. Then, in 1982 Ralph was elected as Councilman for the Tribe, serving a two year term. It was during this same term that he also was elected as Vice-President of the Chitimacha School Board. In 1984 he then became President of the Chitimacha School Board, carrying this title until 1987. Also, from 1984 until 1988 he was Treasurer for the Chitimacha Housing Authority. In 1986 he was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Chitimacha Tribal Council, a term he served until 1988. Then in 1989, Ralph Darden was elected Tribal Chairman, a title he continued to hold until he passed away on January 8th, 1998. Ralph was also President of the Institute for Indian Development, Treasurer for the Chitimacha Development Corporation, Board Member of the Inter Tribal Council, Board Member of the United South and Eastern Tribes, a member of the National Indian Gaming Association and a member of the St. Mary Mayor's Committee. In 1993 Ralph was named West St. Mary Parish Businessperson of the year, an honor presented by the West St. Mary Chamber of Commerce. During his term as Chairman of the Chitimacha, a Police Department, fire department, Multi-Purpose Building, Tribal Courts, Senior/Youth Center, Fitness Center and swimming pool, and Cypress Bayou Casino were some of the economic development ventures put into place for the Tribe.

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It all started on May 20, 1947, the day of his birth. But Ralph Darden's dreams have not passed on because his life was so shortly ended on January 8, 1998. Because of fore-thought and planning, his hopes for his people, his dreams are not gone with him. He gave the Chitimacha people all that he had to give, himself. The prayer that he used to open the Tribal council meetings said much about the way he viewed the past, the present and the future. It is a prayer that you should have to remember him by.

Dear God,

Take our lives and let us live serenely for today. Open our minds to happy thoughts. Take away our self-pity, we don't want it. Take away our ill will toward others. Make it possible for us to feel joy, love and compassion. Help us to accept what is, to hold our tongue, to do our daily tasks and to let go with love. Take away our worry about the future, make us realize that in your hands everything will be provided for, that we have no control over anything but ourselves and that today is precious and will soon be gone. Help us to remember that all the hatred and pain that are directed at us are the hatred and pain the other person is feeling toward himself. Thank you for your willingness to accept our burdens and lighten our load.

Ralph Darden was an exceptional man. He remembered the past, the struggles your ancestors went through to survive so that you had a future, and he worked very hard to make sure that his people could look to the future with pride and hope. He loved his family and he loved his people. It showed.

In closing, there is one more thing to share with you. It is a beautiful poem entitled "THROUGH THE EYES OF SORROW", written by tribal member Leslie Proctor's wife, Judy Proctor. It says it all.

*Today, I see the world through the eyes of sorrow,
Sorrow, for my friend, who has died,
Sorrow, for his loved ones, who grieve for him,
Sorrow, for a Tribe who has lost their leader and,
Sorrow, for myself, for I have lost a friend.*

*Tho he no longer walks among us, he left behind a
Legacy, a legacy of leadership and honor,
Of integrity and truth.*

*He taught us kindness, for he was kind.
He taught us goodness, for he was good.
He taught us love, for he loved.*

*He stared adversity in the face and taught us
to have a fighting spirit..... but,
Most of all, he taught us friendship,
For he was a great friend.
O' Great Spirit and Mother Earth, receive
him, Ralph,
Unto Your bosom, and keep him safe.
May he rest in peace.*

*Today, I see the world through the eyes of sorrow,
And I weep for us all.*

Cultural Community News **By Carolyn B. Savage**

This month we started doing loom work on Monday nights. We had a good group to come out and much to their surprise they learned the technique rather quickly. Doing beadwork on the loom is very time consuming but also very rewarding. . A few of the projects we are working on include belts, hat bands, wrist bands, barrettes and ankle bands.

We would like to extend an invitation to our community members to come and join us on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. in the Senior/Youth center. Please call us at 923-9923 if you have any questions.

We also want to remind you to submit some of your favorite recipes for the cookbook we're putting together. This reminder goes out to all tribal members wherever you are. Please take a few minutes and jot down some of your favorites and mail them to us at the Cultural Department
P.O. Box 661 - Charenton, La. 70523

CHITIMACHA TRIBAL SCHOOL
DAILY MENU SCHEDULE
FEBRUARY 1998

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
February 2, 1998 Breakfast Waffles, Ham, Juice & Milk Lunch Spagetti, Sweet Peas, Garlic Bread, Fruit, & Milk	February 3, 1998 Breakfast Pancakes, Juice & Milk Lunch Round Steak, Rice, Field Peas, Salad, Roll, Fruit & Milk	February 4, 1998 Breakfast Cereal, Toast, Juice & Milk Lunch Oven-Fried Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad, Jello & Milk	February 5, 1998 Breakfast Eggs, Juice & Milk Lunch Sausage, Red Gravy, Rice, Cream Corn, Roll, Fruit, Milk	February 6, 1998 Breakfast Biscuits, Sausage, Juice & Milk Lunch Turkey Sandwich, Salad, Cookie, Fruit, & Milk
February 9, 1998 Breakfast Blueberry Muffins, Cheese Sticks, Juice & Milk Lunch Chili, Crackers, Beans, Salad, Fruit & Milk	February 10, 1998 Breakfast Grilled Cheese, Juice & Milk Lunch Pork Chops, Buttered Potatoes, Corn, Roll, Fruit & Milk	February 11, 1998 Breakfast Cereal, Hash Browns, Juice & Milk Lunch Corn Dog, French Fries, Salad, Fruit, & Milk	February 12, 1998 Breakfast French Toast, Juice & Milk Lunch Baked Chicken, Rice Dressing, Pork & Beans, Roll, Fruit, & Milk	February 13, 1998 Breakfast Biscuits, Sausage, Juice & Milk Lunch Chicken Nuggets, Salad, Roll, Cake, Fruit, & Milk
February 16, 1998 Breakfast Doughnuts, Turkey, Juice & Milk Lunch Meatballs with Gravy, Rice, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit & Milk	February 17, 1998 Breakfast Breakfast Pizza, Juice & Milk Lunch White Beans, Rice & Roast, Salad, Roll, Fruit & Milk	February 18, 1998 Breakfast Cereal, Toast, Juice & Milk Lunch Chicken & Sausage Gumbo, Rice, Potato Salad, Roll, Fruit & Milk	February 19, 1998 Breakfast Oatmeal, Toast, Juice & Milk Lunch Meat Loaf, Spagetti & Cheese, Yams, Salad, Roll, Fruit & Milk	February 20, 1998 Breakfast Biscuits, Sausage, Juice & Milk Lunch Soup & Sandwich, Crackers, Salad, Fruit & Milk
February 23, 1998 MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS	February 24, 1998 MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS	February 25, 1998 MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS	February 26, 1998 Breakfast Biscuits, Sausage, Milk Lunch Red Beans, Rice, Sausage, Salad, Roll, Fruit, Milk	February 27, 1998 Breakfast Eggs, Toast, Juice & Milk Lunch Tuna Fish, Chips, Salad, Fruit, & Milk

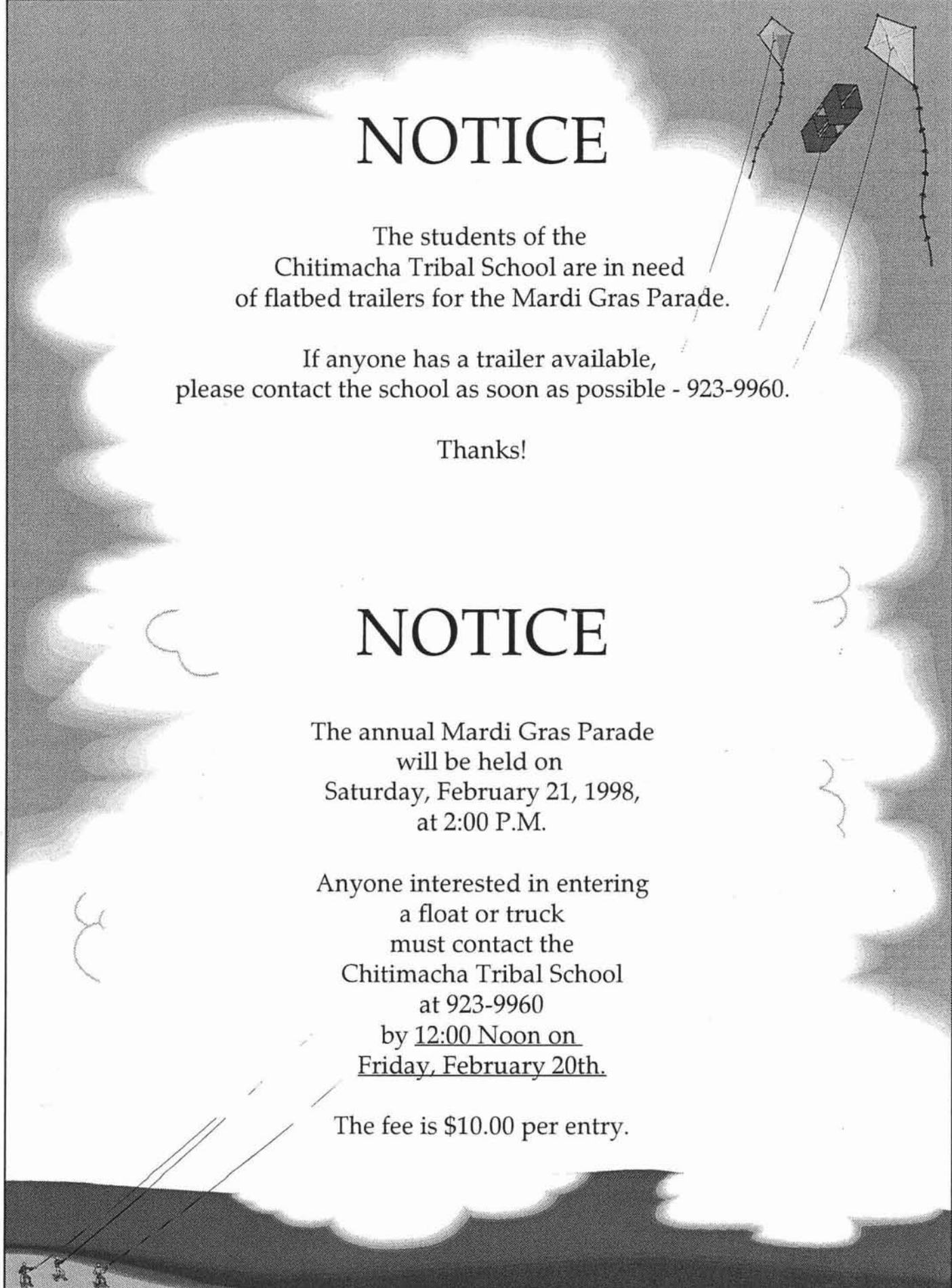
Monday, February 9th: Mid-Nine Weeks Grades

Tuesday, February 10th: Early Release 1:00 P.M.

Friday, February 20th: Mardi Gras Ball

Saturday, February 21st: Mardi Gras Parade

Monday, Feb. 23rd - Wednesday, Feb. 25th: Mardi Gras Holidays



NOTICE

The students of the
Chitimacha Tribal School are in need
of flatbed trailers for the Mardi Gras Parade.

If anyone has a trailer available,
please contact the school as soon as possible - 923-9960.

Thanks!

NOTICE

The annual Mardi Gras Parade
will be held on
Saturday, February 21, 1998,
at 2:00 P.M.

Anyone interested in entering
a float or truck
must contact the
Chitimacha Tribal School
at 923-9960
by 12:00 Noon on
Friday, February 20th.

The fee is \$10.00 per entry.

CHITIMACHA RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By Billy St. Blanc, Director

Special Note:

The Recreation Department lost a dear friend in the passing of **Chairman Ralph Darden**. This Department owes all of its early success to the leadership of **Chairman Ralph** and the new **Chairman, Al LeBlanc**. With their leadership and foresight, and the backing of the entire Tribal Council, this department has gotten off to a great start. It is now our mission to have a first class program, run efficiently and fairly, to honor the Legacy of **Mr. Ralph Darden**.

(Billy & Jeri)

Basketball season has begun with a total of 83 kids distributed among 14 teams. With two weeks into the season we have seen much improvement and expect more to come. We play 4 quarters of six minutes and limited the teams to six players to ensure plenty playing time for each player. Beside improving skills and knowledge of the game, everyone's having fun. Come out and watch the kids play. Admission is free and concessions support the school!!!

The Basketball backboards recently received a much needed facelift. Coach Billy cleaned and painted the backboards and goals while **Mr. Nugent**, along with his students added a creative design in Chitimacha colors. We thank Mr. Nugent for his help and support.

A special treat for all was provided by **Cypress Bayou Casino** by sponsoring tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters. Families piled kids into their cars and headed for the CajunDome on the campus of USL. As always, we appreciate the Casino's generous support of the Recreation Department.

During January, a school wide free throw contest was held though PE in conjunction with St. Mary Parish Drug Free School Program. Six students, in different age groups, advanced to the parish level competition held at Franklin Junior High. The winners include: **Arielle Darden, Mathew Darden, Grant La Garde, Chelsey Cook, Morgan Martin and Todd Toups**.

Upcoming events include Track and Field, with our first track meet tentatively scheduled for March 21, 1998 in Delcambre. Also, golf season is just around the corner, those interested will need to have access to a set of clubs and other equipment needed to play. Special thanks to **Mr. Terry Martin** for donating two golf bags. The **Nike Open** is fast approaching, scheduled for March 23rd through the 29th. We will be working the tournament again this year. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the game and gain valuable experience. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

Our two aerobics instructors, **Lisa Eddlemon** and **Tricia Mora**, will be attending an WaterAerobics workshop. It will focus on water resistance training without equipment. When the water warms and the pool opens, we will be offering Water Aerobics, as well as Floor Aerobics.

It has been very encouraging to see new faces in the fitness room. All should remember that the **American Council on Sports Medicine** recommends 20 to 60 minutes of continuous exercise 3 to 5 times a week to maintain good health and increased energy. We are recommending that you start your program this week for a minimum of 20 minutes 3 times a week. Our new treadmill is in and ready for you to use, forget your excuses and JUST START NOW!!

We are working with **Ms. Leslie Fontonot**, our staff nutritionist to help with nutrition/diet/special needs assessment and programs for individuals. If you would like set up an appointment, she is available on Wednesdays see Jeri, Billy, or the Health Department for more information.

Until next month....

CHITIMACHA SENIOR PROGRAM CALENDAR
DAILY MENU SCHEDULE
FEBRUARY 1998

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Feb. 2, 1998 Pork Chops, Cheese Potatoes, Corn, Salad & Pie Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 3, 1998 Smothered Steak, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls & Pudding Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 4, 1998 Breakfast Groundmeat Spaghetti, Sweet Peas, Salad, Garlic Bread & Surprise Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 5, 1998 Chicken Stew, Rice, White Beans, Asparagus, Rolls & Fruit Activity: Shopping	Feb. 6, 1998 Fried Shrimp, Salad, Hush Puppies, Rolls & Brownies
Feb. 9, 1998 Pork Roast, Lima Beans, Rice, Salad, Rolls & Fruit Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 10, 1998 Red Beans, Rice, Smothered Steak, Broccoli, Rolls & Pie Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 11, 1998 Breakfast Meatloaf, Cheese Potatoes, Corn, Salad, Rolls and Pudding Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 12, 1998 Chicken Gumbo, Rice, Salad, Rolls & Surprise Activity: Shopping	Feb. 13, 1998 Tuna Fish, Tator Tots, Veggie Tray & Fruit
Feb. 16, 1998 OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY	Feb. 17, 1998 Smothered Chicken, Rice, Blackeye Peas, Asparagus, Rolls & Pie Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 18, 1999 Breakfast Vegetable Soup, Crackers, Baked Sweet Potatoes & Cake Activity: Reg Bingo	Feb. 19, 1998 Beef Roast, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls & Fruit Activity: Shopping	Feb. 20, 1998 Fried Catfish, Hush Puppies, Potato Salad & Brownies
Feb 23, 1998 Baked Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Sweet Peas, Salad, Rolls & Jello Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 24, 1998 Chicken Salad Sandwiches, Appetizers & Chips Activity: NONE	Feb. 25, 1998 Breakfast Shrimp Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Potato Salad & Pie Activity: Lil Bingo	Feb. 26, 1998 OFFICE CLOSED SENIOR FESTIVAL Activity: NONE	Feb. 27, 1998 Crawfish Stew, Rice, Salad, Corn & Fruit

FEBRUARY 1998 BIRTHDAYS

<i>Lydia Darden</i>	<i>Feb. 2</i>	<i>Lou Martin</i>	<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>Ester Vilcan</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>
<i>Hazel Bernard</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>	<i>Howard Mora, Sr.</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Ernest Bernard</i>	<i>Feb. 17</i>
<i>Pete Mora</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Nick Stouff</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU AND HAVE MANY MORE!!!

SEAT BELTS WORK

Over the past decade, highway fatalities and injuries have declined. One main reason for this decline is that more motorists are wearing their seat belts. Seat belts are the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes. When a traffic crash occurs, occupants are still traveling at the vehicle's original speed at the moment of impact. Just after the vehicle rapidly comes to a complete stop, unbelted occupants slam into the steering wheel, windshield, or other parts

of the vehicle's interior. Seat belts are effective in reducing fatalities and injuries caused by this second collision, or "human collision," when the vehicle's occupants hit some part of the vehicle interior or each other.

Seat belts also provide the greatest protection against occupant ejection, one of the most injurious events that can happen to a person in a crash. In fatal crashes in 1996, only one percent of restrained passenger car occupants were ejected, compared to 20 percent of unrestrained occupants. In fatal crashes,

nearly 73 percent of the occupants who are ejected from passenger cars are killed.

At current use rates, seat belts save an estimated 9,500 lives in the United States each year. Research has found that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent (light trucks 60 percent) and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent (light trucks 65 percent).



Within 1/10 of a second after impact, your car will come to a dead stop, but you will continue moving forward at the same speed your car was traveling.



You will then be slammed into the dashboard or windshield if you are not wearing a seat belt. This is called a human collision. It is one of the major causes of injury and death in automobile crashes.



Wearing a seat belt will help you escape serious injury or death. Instead of being slammed into the dashboard or windshield, your forward momentum will be checked and you will come to a safe, non-impact stop.

THE CASE FOR

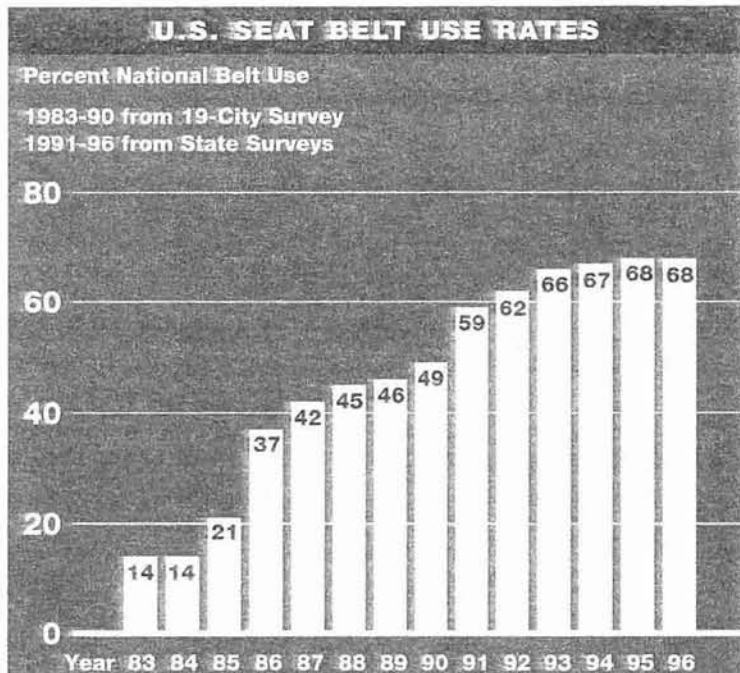
Primary Enforcement

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR INCREASING SEAT BELT USE NATIONWIDE

Between 1983 and 1993, seat belt use increased from 14 percent to 66 percent. This is a 52 percentage point increase. Since 1993, however, seat belt use has risen only two percentage points. In the **Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Use Nationwide**, the Secretary of Transportation recommended goals for seat belt use nationwide. These goals are 85 percent usage by the year 2000 and 90 percent usage by the year 2005 and the reduction of child occupant fatalities by 15 and 25 percent, respectively.

What Are The Benefits of Meeting The President's Goals?

Although the number of highway deaths and injuries are on the decline, increasing seat belt use would result in further significant reductions in deaths, injuries, and their economic costs to society. Increasing seat belt use from the current 68 percent to 85 percent would prevent an estimated 4,194 fatalities and 102,518 injuries annually. This reduction in injuries and deaths would result in an economic savings of approximately \$6.7 billion annually (1996 dollars).



Increasing seat belt use from 68 percent to 90 percent would prevent an estimated 5,536 fatalities and 132,670 injuries annually, and would save \$8.8 billion each year.

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT WILL INCREASE SEAT BELT USE

How can we increase seat belt use? It will take a combination of the four strategies outlined in the **Presidential Initiative** — strong primary laws, active high visibility enforcement, effective public information and education, and public-private partnerships — to change people's behavior and increase seat belt use to meet the new national seat belt use goals.

The most important step for a state to achieve long lasting increases in seat belt use is to adopt a strong primary seat belt law. Primary

enforcement allows a police officer to issue a citation when the officer observes an unbelted driver or passenger. Secondary enforcement means a citation can only be written after the officer stops the vehicle for another infraction. Increases can be made without a primary law, but the most efficient and long lasting gains are accomplished when a primary seat belt law works in conjunction with enforcement, education, and partnership efforts. That is why the **Presidential Initiative** recommends that states enact primary seat belt laws. Enacting primary seat belt laws is an essential step states should take to help meet the new national seat belt use goals.

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT IS SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Many other countries have seat belt use rates significantly higher than the United States. For example, use rates in Canada, Australia, and several Western European countries exceed 90 percent, while use rates in Great Britain exceed 80 percent. Seat belt use laws in these countries typically allow primary enforcement and cover occupants of light trucks and vans, in addition to automobiles. Fines for noncompliance are generally higher than in the United States, and some jurisdictions assess demerit points against driver's licenses for seat belt violations.

THE CASE FOR PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT

The evidence is overwhelming and the time is now! A majority of the public supports primary enforcement. Based on the historical difference between observed seat belt use in primary versus secondary enforcement states and the experiences of California, Louisiana, and Georgia, upgrading to primary enforcement increases seat belt use by an estimated 15 percentage points. Seat belt use prevents deaths and injuries and saves money. NHTSA estimates if every state upgraded to primary enforcement, 1,733 lives would be saved, 46,025 injuries would be prevented, and \$2.9 billion



would be saved annually. The next step is to seize the momentum created by the **Presidential Initiative.** Use this information to build partnerships and make the commitment to upgrade your state's seat belt use law to primary enforcement. Help your state send the message that buckling up is important and your seat belt law will be strictly enforced.

Take The First Step

Several organizations work at the state and local levels in support of highway safety issues and seat belt use laws. Contact these groups to find out how seat belt use is being promoted in your state and in your own community. Every state has a Governor's Office of Highway Safety, which can help you identify the key highway safety organizations in your state. You can also contact the NHTSA Regional Offices representing your state and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Indian Highway Safety Program for information on Tribal Programs. (These lists are included in this planner.) Your State Department of Health and Area Indian Health Service can refer

you to injury prevention organizations that work to increase seat belt and child safety seat use. Finally, don't forget about your state and local law enforcement agencies.

Many private organizations and businesses are actively promoting seat belt use. These groups include the Air Bag Safety Campaign, state and local SAFE KIDS Coalitions, American Automobile Association (AAA), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), insurance companies, hospitals, and health care organizations. These groups are always looking for new partners to help promote seat belt use and other highway safety activities.





In Louisiana focus groups (conducted in five study communities during October 1995), the upgrade to primary enforcement was well received by local law enforcement officers.

- The large majority of officers indicated upgrading the seat belt law to primary enforcement was a good change and was sending the message that seat belt use was required.
- Follow-up focus groups (June 1996) indicated that police support for the primary law remained strong and that primary status elevated the importance of a seat belt law violation to an officer.

THE PUBLIC SUPPORTS SEAT BELT USE AND PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT

In the 1996 Motor Vehicle Safety survey conducted by NHTSA, public attitudes concerning seat belt laws were measured. The survey was administered by telephone to approximately 4,000 randomly selected respondents (age 16 and older) from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

- Most of those surveyed favored laws that require drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts.
- Three-quarters of the persons who supported front seat laws also believed that seat belt laws should apply to back seat adult passengers as well.
- The majority of the public believed that police should be allowed to stop a vehicle if they observed only a seat belt violation (primary enforcement).

- In primary law states, nearly two-thirds favored primary enforcement.

In 1991, Traffic Safety Now conducted a national telephone survey of nearly 3,000 residents ages 18 and over. Seventy-three percent of those polled said they would support primary seat belt legislation in their state if they knew that it would result in more seat belt use and more lives being saved.

A 1988 roadside survey of nearly 2,000 motorists in Michigan asked, "How would your seat belt use change if police could pull you over just for not wearing your seat belt, the same way they can pull you over for speeding?" Sixty-eight percent of those polled reported that their use would increase. Less than one percent said that their seat belt use would decrease. The remaining 30 percent reported that their seat belt use would stay the same.

What's Your New Year Resolution?
Leslie G. Fontenot, RD, MS, LDN
Dietitian

If January 1st brings thoughts and urges to begin a strict diet, then I challenge you to do your resolution a little differently this year. I challenge you to make your resolution realistic and achievable. Unrealistic goals are a setup for failure and disappointment. For example, the goal of quitting smoking, losing 50 pounds, and jogging 10 miles per week might sound great but is very likely to be unachievable for someone who is sedentary, overweight, and smoking 1-2 packs of cigarettes per day. A more realistic resolution may be to enroll in a stop smoking program or to attend a low fat cooking class or to join an aerobics class. Resolutions that are achievable are empowering and enable us to make changes.

Strict dieting is not the only nor is it the best resolution for better health. Diets can leave us feeling deprived, hungry, guilty, and confused. A better alternative to dieting is to vow to take some specific steps to a more healthy eating style. Consider these examples:

- ◆ Make a pledge to eat more fruits and vegetables. This might involve bringing a salad for lunch twice a week or having fruit instead of ice cream for your midnight snack.
- ◆ Make a pledge for more healthful, lowfat eating by talking to a dietitian about learning to read food labels and how to interpret fat gram information.
- ◆ If you have diabetes, make a pledge to get your blood sugar checked weekly or enroll in a support group for persons living with diabetes.
- ◆ If you notice that your eating changes when you feel "stressed", consider talking to a dietitian or counselor about how to manage stressful situations in ways other than using food and eating.
- ◆ Consider getting some physical movement during your workday by taking a walk on your lunch break or walking instead of driving between short distances.
- ◆ Invest in a lowfat cookbook or subscribe to a monthly health magazine and read.

You can get more ideas for 1998 health resolutions by calling Leslie or Pat at the health department at 923-9955.

Public Works Department

By Tony Darden

Here's the run down on what happened, what's going on and what's in the works in Public Works Department.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

JANITOR

Application are now being accepted for the position of Janitor. Interested candidates should contact Anita Cook at the address below for an application.

The Janitor will report to the Public Works Director . The Janitor is responsible for the routine interior maintenance of tribal buildings. Applicant should be a high school graduate or have earned a GED.

Preference will be given to qualified Native Americans

This is a Safety-Sensitive position and is subject to random drug testing.

You may pick up an application at the Muti-Purpose building between the hours of 7:30 a. m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 11,1998 at 5:00 p.m.

Geophysical Survey:

Shell Westin E & P Inc. was issued a geophysical permit to obtain a 3- D survey on the reservation. This is to remind you that Shell is continuing to do the survey. They have laid all the lines down and are now in the process of recording. The survey should be completed in 2-3 weeks, if the whether permits. We would like to thank you for your cooperation.

New Subdivision:

The sewer lines and water lines have been installed. When they were completed we had Don Anthrobus from Indian Health Service come out and inspect the lines to make sure they were up to codes. Also, Joan Adams with St. Mary Health and Sanitation inspected the lines. We would like to thank these folks for their assistance.

All of the electrical lines are in place, with the exception of a few electrical boxes. The next step is asphaltting the roads, however, with all the rain we been experiencing this has caused a delay. Let's hope that the whether cooperates with us so we can complete this project. Please keep in mind that this subdivision will be totally electric. We will keep you up-dated as the project progresses.

Drainage:

We have been experiencing flooding in some areas of the reservation due to the abundance of rainfall and the excessive amount of debris in the ditches such as leaves, cans, and etc.. What happens is all of it gets caught in the culverts and stops the water from flowing properly. We are asking everyone to help us out by cleaning the ditches in front of their homes. This would be a big help to us and also to your neighbors. (We have also hired a contractor to address and correct some of the worst problem areas). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sewer:

We are asking your cooperation in helping us to alleviate some sewer problems that we have been experiencing by not throwing the following items into the sewer system: sanitary napkins, Q-Tips, grease or any item that is not bio-degradable. These products can cause major breakdown in the lift stations.

Reminder:

Please remember that the Maintenance department is still accepting waste oil. If you would like to dispose of it, please bring it by the maintenance shop between the hours of 7: 30 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Check with one of the maintenance workers prior to any disposal.

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued from Page 14)

If you plan on using any tribal equipment on weekends please be sure to come by before 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. We MUST have you sign a check out form before any equipment leaves the premises. There will be no equipment loan out after 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Public Works :

Lands, Sewer, Utilities, Facilities and Roads. You can reach our department at 923-9125 or in case of an emergency after hours 828-6708 or 923-4658

HOUSING NEWS:

By Marilyn Burgess

NAHASDA

We are continuing to work on our Housing Plan which will include the proposed development under the Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act of 1997. We have not received our final allocation as of this date. We are looking into several options (i.e. elderly housing, family and single dwellings). Our 1 year and 5 year housing plans have to be in HUD's office by July 1, 1998.

ALTERNATIVE FINANCING

I am, at this time, contacting various funding agencies to set up meetings with the Housing Authority to find out what is available to help with funding of future projects.

HOUSING FAIR

We are in the planning stages of a Housing Fair that will be held in a couple of months. The fair will enable people, who are interested in obtaining housing, to meet with various representatives of funding agencies. We will notify you of the date.

HOUSING REPORT

At the next quarterly general meeting in April, a complete summary of housing issues will be presented.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ms. Gwen Terrapin, a Technical Assistance Specialist from the National American Indian Housing Council was here on January 20 & 21 to meet with the Housing Commissioners and Tribal Council. She did review the work that has been completed on our Housing Plan and told us that it looked real good.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

I would like to let my Mutual Help Participants know that I have property insurance booklets available at the office for you to pick up at your convenience. These booklets will help you if you are interested in obtaining additional insurance coverage for your personal property.

TRAVEL

Rodney Burgess and Joey Bernard will be attending the Oklahoma Indian Housing Association Meeting in Oklahoma City on February 3-6, 1998.

I will be attending the U.S.E.T. Meeting in Washington, D.C. on January 31 thru February 5, 1998.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Several HIP jobs are now underway. We have had somewhat of a delay due to the rain that we have been having but they will be completed in the next several weeks.

ANYONE HAVING ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING HOUSING ISSUES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME AT 923-9125. I WILL TRY TO HELP YOU IN ANYWAY THAT I CAN.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Call Debbie @ 318 923-4973 to place an Ad

Chitimacha Tribal School Honor Roll Students Second Nine Weeks:

3rd Grade
Matthew Darden
Kyle Hebert

4th Grade
Arielle Darden
Megan Persilver
Richard Picard
Schuylar Vilcan

5th Grade
Slade Bobbitt
Jase Darden

6th Grade
Robert Brown
Grant LaGarde

7th Grade
Tasia Bernard
Toni Darden
James Hebert
Morgan Martin

8th Grade
Elizabeth Touns
Joshua Vilcan

A NOTE OF HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

A mere thanks is not enough to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many calls, cards, letters, donations, floral arrangements, and prayers offered by family and friends upon the loss of your chairman and our loved one,

Ralph C. Darden.

People have been so kind and considerate during our bereavement. Ralph was a man who cared about people and strived to provide a better way of life for others. With the response of such proportions upon his untimely death, we are comforted in knowing that so many cared about him as well.

Sincerely,
Phyllis H. Darden, Toby, Naomi,
Matthew, Jules and other family members

